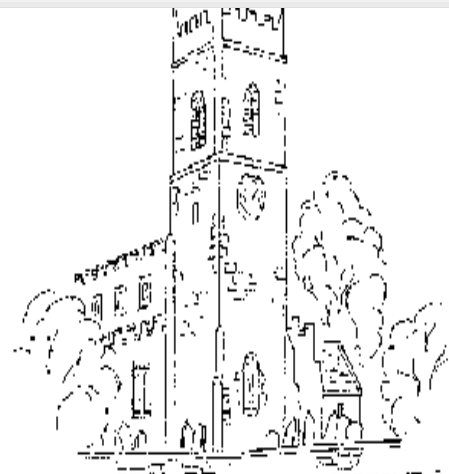


December 2022 /January 2023

Lord Jesus Christ,
may we never cease
to wonder at your birth,
when heaven touched the earth
and you came
to be among us;
our Saviour and our God.



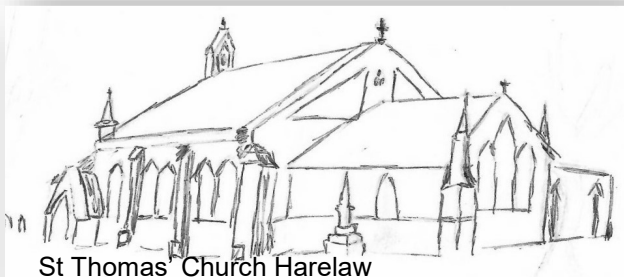
Parish Church of All Saints, Lanchester

Trinity

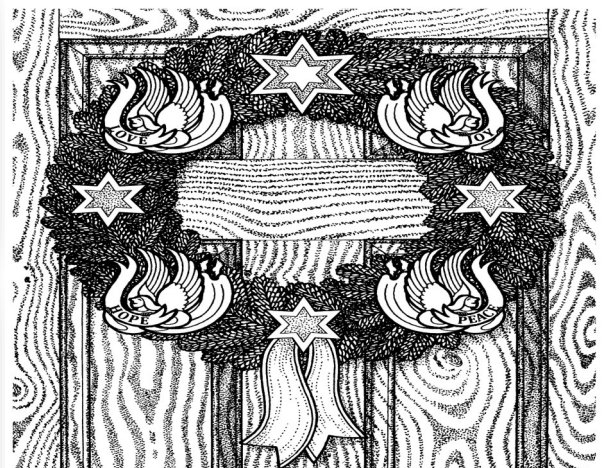
*The Parish magazine of :
All Saints' Parish Church Lanchester,
St John's Church Burnhope,
and St Thomas' Church Harelaw and Annfield Plain*



St. John's Church, Burnhope



St Thomas' Church Harelaw



50p monthly or £5 per year

Parish Church of LANCHESTER & BURNHOPE

Priest in Charge – The Revd Lesley Sutherland

The Vicarage, 1, Lee Hill Court, Lanchester DH7 0QE Tel 01207 529166

Curate The Revd Stephen Martin

St Ives Vicarage, St Ives Road, Leadgate, Tel 01207509730

READERS

Peter Jackson, 23 Humberhill Drive 521156
Doreen Park, 10 West Terrace 438564
Burnhope
Ann Sinclair, Reader Emeritus
Stephen Burt, Reader Emeritus

SERVICES AT ALL SAINTS', LANCHESTER

8am Every Sunday Eucharist (Traditional Language)
10.30am Principal Service
(Eucharist or Service of the Word)
6.00 pm Evensong Monthly every second Sunday
Wednesdays 9.45 am Holy Communion

HOLY BAPTISM & WEDDINGS -
by arrangement with the Vicar

SERVICES AT ST. JOHN'S, BURNHOPE

1st and 3rd Sunday 9.15 am Said Eucharist
2nd Sunday and any 5th Sunday joint (All Saints)
4th Sunday 9.15am Service of the word

Café Church at The Community Centre every second
Tuesday of the month

CHURCHWARDENS

Robert Matthews 7 Prospect Terrace 771044
Doreen Park 10 West Terrace Burnhope 438564
Pauline Hall 21 Broadoak Drive 520393

VICE CHAIR PCC

Margaret Matthews, Delves House,
Delves Lane 505448

TREASURER

Michael Horsley lanchesterpcc treasurer@gmail.com
Telephone 07719708764

HON. SECRETARY PCC

David Baggott, 14 Woodlands 520646

ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER

David Baggott, 14 Woodlands 520646

GIFT AID

Miranda Donneky, 29 Bradbury Close 231570
Tanfield Lea, Stanley

ORGANIST

Craig Davies, 7 Headley Hill Terrace
Waterhouses Durham
DH79BA 01913407501
craig_w_davies@yahoo.co.uk

TOWER CAPTAIN

Olga Walker, 9 Pineridge Avenue 01740
Sedgefield 621865

CHURCH WIVES GROUP

Brenda Craddock, 38 Briardene 520749

MOTHERS' UNION BRANCH LEADER LANCHESTER

Eileen Matthews, 7 Prospect Terrace 771044

SECRETARY

Audrey Newton, 4 Woodlands 520728

TREASURER

Dorothy Beadling, 8 Humberhill Drive 658990

MOTHERS' UNION BRANCH LEADER BURNHOPE

Elva Hockaday, 12 West Terrace 520019
Burnhope

SECRETARY:

Muriel Molloy, 1 Whitehouse Avenue 521441
Burnhope

MAGAZINE EDITOR:

Rob Matthews, 7 Prospect Terrace 771044

PARISH ROOM SECRETARY

Angela Lee, Fairfield Lodge 520032
Maiden Law

CHURCH FLOWERS

Barbara Sproat, 37 Greenwell Park 520247

MUSIC GROUP and CHOIRMASTER

Craig Davies, 7 Headley Hill Terrace
Waterhouses Durham
DH79BA 01913407501

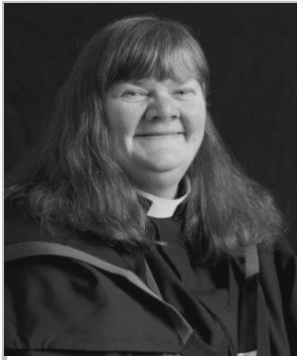
**Contributions to
the Church
Magazine are
always welcome.**



Copy sent by E-mail,

To **robmatthews48@hotmail.com**

**The copy deadline for the
February issue is
Sunday 22nd January**



The coldest month of the year in Bethlehem isn't December, but January, with an average high of just 10 degrees, and a low of 5. But the cool season does begin in December and extends to March, and snow-though not commonplace-is not unknown. In winter the Galilean uplands can be bitter and bleak, with heavy rain and clear skies bringing frost overnight. The ninety mile journey to the city of Joseph's ancestors, south along the flatlands of the Jordan River, then west over the hills surrounding Jerusalem, and on into Bethlehem, whatever the time of year, is likely to have been both difficult and dangerous.

And newborns are fragile; post partum mothers need rest, a place to begin to establish that mother-baby bond. Neonatal children cannot yet regulate their own body temperatures, and need warmth, shelter, security. The meagre hospitality of a stable, a cave housing animals, an outhouse- whatever was offered to Joseph and Mary and their child-was crucial to the baby's survival. In Jesus' time nearly 25% of babies died in their first year of life.

Warmth, shelter and security are much on our minds this Christmas. With soaring fuel prices, many of us are afraid to turn on the heat. Those of us who grew up in the fifties and sixties joke about scraping the ice off the inside of our bedroom windows during the winter, and question the fortitude of those used to double glazed, insulated, centrally heated houses. But a recent physiological study has shown that cold rooms are bad for us; our organs work harder, and thinking becomes more difficult. Cold air inflames the lungs and inhibits circulation, increasing the risk of respiratory conditions, such as asthma attacks or symptoms, worsening of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and infection. Babies, children, adults-all of us need warmth, shelter, security.

Christians are called to love; we are called to radical hospitality. The experiences of Jesus as a child and as a man journeying towards his death, often without food or shelter, provoke us to extend a warmth and a welcome to all who need it. So this year, we have joined a partnership that extends across Lanchester, Burnhope, Annfield Plain, Catchgate and Harelaw, opening our buildings to those who need some company and a place to get warm, to recharge their electrical devices and recharge their own batteries with free hot drinks, simple food, the newspapers, table games and free WiFi. As I write, we're still looking for volunteers for all three churches, and it goes without saying that donations for all of our Warm Hubs will be very gratefully received.

And all will be welcome-babies, toddlers, families, those who live alone, those who have been bereaved, the middle aged, older people, those troubled by illness- not just at our Warm Spaces but also at our Christmas services, when we tell the story of the God who came to us as a vulnerable newborn, needing warmth, shelter and security.

May God bless you with warmth, shelter, security and love,

This Christmas, and always.

Lesley

Christmas Prayer

Father,
Thank you for creating us and for loving us so much that you sent Jesus to become one of us and to be our way to you. This Christmas may we know the love, peace, comfort and joy that only You can give, no matter what our circumstances. And may we reflect Your light and love in this dark world to bring glory to You. In Jesus' name.

Amen.

Daphne Kitching





Confirmation, Holy Communion and me

As I sit and write this it is the day before our deanery confirmation service at St Ives. Leadgate. Bishop Sarah will baptise & confirm 20+ people of various ages as they promise to:

renounce the deceit and corruption

repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour.

turn to Christ as Saviour.

submit to Christ as Lord.

come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life.

These promises are not easy, they take willpower, courage, and strength but I hope they will be sustained and strengthened by regularly receiving Holy Communion.

The night before Jesus died, he sat with His friends and broke bread, offered them wine as He commanded them to do this in memory of Him. This is what we do each Sunday in the Holy Eucharist, we gather as a family united in Christ and are nourished by Him spiritually giving us strength to go out into the world and serve.

Communion is not just about the bread and wine; it's about the body and blood of Jesus. It is a celebration of all that Jesus did in His sacrifice for us on the cross. It is a constant reminder of just how blessed we are.

I have always sensed that my call to ministry was one of celebration, being with and among the people of God and to celebrate the Holy mysteries. In my first year as deacon, I took the sacrament to the homes of those now unable to receive in church and was overwhelmed by just what it meant to each. It was a sign to me that God had called me to be where I am now, ordained a priest in the church of God. Celebrating Holy Communion with the people of God is a privilege that I never take for granted.

My ordination as deacon and priest were a real celebration shared by my sending parish and all three of our churches here in Lanchester & Burnhope, Harelaw and Annfield Plain and I received several generous financial gifts which I held until I found something that would help me in my ministry and keep. I recently saw and purchased a travelling communion kit which enables me to take Communion to homes, Lynwood House, and Annfield Plain Community centre so that all who wish to can receive from the Lord's table. It will also remind me of the amazing people God has called me to serve today in these places and in the future when the time comes to move on. So, thank you all for your generosity.

If you are interested in Holy Communion and what it means to us as a church family or on a personal level, please come along to any of the churches and experience it for yourself and ask as many questions as you like. If you feel you would like to explore your faith, please feel free to speak to me.

Please continue to pray for those who were confirmed on 20th November that they will be strengthened in faith by Holy Communion.

I wish you all a blessed Christmas and New Year.

Stephen



Home Communion

If you are unable to come to church and wish to receive Home Communion, please contact Revd Stephen (01207 529166) who will be pleased to make the arrangements for you.

Mothers' Union partners campaign against domestic abuse

Mothers' Union has teamed up with Women's Aid in a campaign to help draw attention to end domestic abuse.

The campaign aims to highlight the fact that 1.6 million women in England experience domestic abuse every year. Three women are killed each fortnight by a current or ex-partner. And one in every seven children will have to live with domestic violence at some point in their childhood.

As Bev Jullien, CEO of Mothers' Union, says: "It's what happens behind closed doors which is so very worrying. Domestic abuse takes many forms. As well as the bruises and violence, which is absolutely shocking, it's restricting access to money, it's tracking your partner online, it's controlling who they speak to. It's very much about exercising power over those who are closest to you. Of course, the longer it continues, the more impact it has on any children in a relationship as well.

"God created man and woman as equal. He teaches us to love one another, and those core principles should lead us all to be in healthy relationships and help others to be so too."

More details at: <https://www.mothersunion.org/partnerships/womensaid>

Source Parish Pump

Lanchester Burnhope Harelaw and Annfield Plain

Funerals

28th November **Maggie Ricketts**
Robert Brodie Hall
Muriel Elliott



'May they rest in peace and rise in glory'

Baptisms

20th November **Anne - Marie Emmerson**



"We welcome you into the Lord's Family"

Deanery Confirmations 20th November

On the Feast of Christ the King, Stephen and I were delighted to present 14 candidates for confirmation by the Rt Rev'd Sarah Clarke, Bishop of Jarrow, at St Ives', Leadgate. We will be congratulating them all, and presenting their certificates and confirmation gifts, during our Eucharist on 11th December, which fittingly is Gaudete Sunday. Please pray for;

Iona BATES
Hollie FERGUSON
Daisy QUINN
Harrison Dean SCOTT
Oliver Andrew WAINWRIGHT, all baptised and confirmed;
and for
Ann-Marie EMMERSON
Sophie EMMERSON
Poppy GRAHAM
Joel Lee JENSON
Gracie MARTIN
Niamh MARTIN
Annabel Eve MOORE
Finlay TENNANT
Catherine Elizabeth WHITE, who were all confirmed.



Lesley

Safe driving this winter

The temperatures are dropping now, and if you are going away for Christmas, it is a good idea to nurture your car battery. Cold, damp weather can cause problems for it. The RAC recommends the following to take best care of your battery:



Before you switch off your engine at the end of a journey, turn off the lights, wipers, and heaters. This prevents any unnecessary drain on the battery next time you start the car.

Check that everything is switched off before you turn on the ignition.

Avoid using the heater longer than necessary, as it puts high demands on the vehicle's battery. Check that you don't leave interior lights, satnavs or phone chargers connected. If possible, park in a garage.

Source Parish Pump

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

Mothers' Union Lanchester



Our next meeting is on 13th December when we will hold our Advent Service, when we look forward to welcoming fellow members and invited guests. The service will be followed by refreshments in the Chapter House. Our January meeting will be held on Tuesday, the 11th when we will hold a wave of prayer. This will be followed by a social afternoon, with a Flower Quiz.

Wishing everyone a Happy Christmas and Peace in the New Year.

Eileen Matthews

Mothers' Union Burnhope



Our November meeting was on Monday the 7th. Mrs Park conducted the Wave of Prayer Service. We then had a discussion on Verse 31 from Romans Chapter 4. Items were ready from St John's Church magazines dated 1995 and 1997. Our Pie and Pea supper in October raised £220.

Our member, Mrs Ledger has been very busy. She has knitted 20 baby bonnets and delivered them to Sunderland Hospital.

May we wish you all a healthy and peaceful 2023

Muriel Molloy

Fresh batches of chutney and jams made regularly.

Currently available -

chutneys: beetroot, butternut squash, apple. jam: mixed berry.

Ring Margaret on 521214 or Jen on 520498

We are happy to deliver.



The Language of Flowers

PROTECTION

JUNIPER – *Juniperus*
“Sweet is the Juniper, but sharp is his bough”
Edmund Spenser



Birds, insects and small woodland creatures seek the protection afforded by juniper, which, with its long branches and strong scent, conceals them from pursuers and predators. In Italy juniper is regarded with great veneration because, the story goes, it saved the life of Mary and the infant Jesus when they fled into Egypt. In order to screen her son from the assassins employed by Herod to put young children to death. Mary is said to have hidden him under a juniper tree. Because of this the juniper has been invested with the power of putting to flight the spirits of evil, hence sprigs of juniper are hung outside stables and houses to preserve them from the power of witches. In Germany, when a child fell ill, the parents hid a bunch of juniper in some bread and wool, in order to induce bad spirits to eat, to spin and so forget the poor suffering child. The berries are used for the production of Geneva or Dutch gin and in Sweden a healthy beer is made from them.

PEACE

OLIVE - *Olea europaea*



The olive tree has a very ancient and romantic history. An olive branch has long been a universal symbol of peace. The dove returned to the ark bearing a fresh olive leaf and was seen by Noah as the herald of peace and salvation. In China, a common method of making up a quarrel is to send the aggrieved person an olive and a red pepper, as a sign that peace is restored. For the Greeks too, it was a token of peace and good will, carried to neighbours houses at New Year. It is associated with Christ, the Prince of Peace, because it was on the Mount of Olives that he suffered and it appears on the tombs of early martyrs. St. Agnes is often depicted wearing a crown of olives and holding an olive branch. The oil is indispensable in cooking and has soothing medicinal properties. Delicate babies were massaged with olive oil, which was then absorbed through their skin. To dream of olive trees bearing olives, denotes peace, delight, concord, liberty, dignity and fruition of your desires.

Audrey Newton

Visiting Father Christmas

A mother took her young daughter to visit Father Christmas in his grotto at the garden centre. He greeted the youngster merrily and asked: “And what would you like for Christmas?”

The little girl stared at him, open-mouthed with horror. “Didn’t you get my email?!”



Padded mobile phone cases and spectacle cases (lightweight for ladies' handbags)



*Some with cross body strap
some with belt strap
or for handbag
£2.50*

All proceeds to Church Funds

Ring Margaret on 521214

100 Club News

The November draw was made in the Chapter House on 19th October by Olga

Winning numbers were:

All £5– 54,101,128,65,68,125

(December draw result in February Magazine)



Sue Smith and Olga Walker

Durham Constabulary Male Voice Choir

Thanks to everyone who supported the Concert by the Durham Constabulary Male Voice Choir, held in Lanchester Parish Church on Saturday 12th November and to all who helped with the arrangements. I know that everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening and it was such a pleasure to be able to hold such an event after the lean Covid years. Let's hope that it will be the first of many similar events in church. A profit of £325 was made for Church funds.

Social and Fundraising Committee

Christmas Card Stand

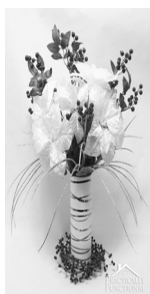
The Christmas Card Stand is now once more available in the church. Each year many cards have been displayed and a charity selected by the PCC has benefited from your donations. Many of you will appreciate the opportunity to post a single card and in this way to send Christmas greetings to other members of the church family, while at the same time helping others.

This year the PCC would like the donations to be given to Consett Foodbank. Gift Aid envelopes are available. Please place your donations and any completed Gift Aid envelopes in the Donations bag on the stand. Alternatively you may wish to make a private donation to another charity of your own choosing.

David and Pam Baggott

Church Flowers in December/January

11th Dec	G Smithem C Morcom M Barker (White) Mrs Penfold
18th Dec	N Rafferty
25th Dec	D Oram P and J Smith
8th Jan 2023	E Lothian L Kelly Mrs Ward
15th Jan	F Hunter J Harrison
22rd Jan	A Lee P Reed J Jobling
29th Jan	M Richardson M Gray



Church Wives

We are fast approaching the festive season
But why do we celebrate; what is the reason?

It is of course because of a special birth

The Son of God was born on earth.

Christ in Christmas is the importance of the word.

Amidst the celebrations Christ should be heard.

Wives Christmas Party is on the 8th of December

And the Christ in Christmas we will remember.

After that our next meetings will be in the New Year

A lovely meal on January 12th we will share

Then on the 26th from Reverend Stephen we will hear

About his call to the ministry; all will be clear.

We look forward to that as it is sure to be good

You will go home no doubt in a very good mood.

CHRISTmas.

Christmas arrives at the darkest part of the year but we know that Jesus came to lighten our darkness. Candles are used in plenty at festival times and no doubt candles will feature somewhere in your Christmas. If you light a candle this Christmas remember that the candle is a sign of our prayers and the offering of our lives in the service of Christ.

We are praying for others that they might be strengthened in their faith and love of our Lord.

We are recognising that the candle is a symbol of all those who through the ages have shone as lights in the darkness of the world.

We are acknowledging that the candle is a witness, that through the centuries people have knelt in prayer and worshipped, fervently believing that Jesus is the Son of God.

May CHRIST be in your Christmas and may the light of your Christmas Candles be for your life the Light of Christ.

Happy CHRISTmas everyone from Church Wives.

Brenda Craddock.

Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

I have taken 32 boxes to the collection point.

Thank you very much all who filled boxes and/or made a donation.

Steve Craddock

Julian Prayer Meetings

2pm in the
Chapter House

December 5th



90 years of broadcasting the Royal Christmas Messages

This year we shall have our first Royal Christmas Message from King Charles III. He follows in a tradition that spans three generations.

It was 90 years ago, on 25th December 1932, that the first Royal Christmas Message was broadcast on radio. King George V addressed the nation live from Sandringham. A quarter of a century later, on 25th December 1957, the Christmas message by Queen Elizabeth II was televised for the first time.



King George V had been asked to broadcast a Christmas message in 1922, but at the time he felt that radio was for entertainment, and therefore not suitable. Ten years later, after a visit to the BBC, he was persuaded otherwise, and agreed to do it as part of the inauguration of the new Empire Service (now the World Service).

The time chosen was 3pm because it was the best time for reaching most countries in the Empire. In fact the first message started five minutes late and lasted only two and a half minutes, but it made a massive impact and established itself as a regular Christmas Day event.

Edward VIII never delivered a Christmas broadcast, but King George VI continued the tradition, using it to encourage people during the second world war. Queen Elizabeth II broadcast her first Christmas message in 1952, again from a room at Sandringham, and five years later agreed that her Christmas message could be televised – live. She proved to be a natural broadcaster.

But times changed, and in 1960 the message was pre-recorded from Buckingham Palace, which meant that it could be sent to Commonwealth countries for broadcast at a convenient time. However, the 3pm UK broadcast continued every year – except 1969, when the Queen wrote a message instead, believing that the Royal Family had received enough exposure with the TV documentary *Royal Family*, which had aired in the summer.

But the tradition was resumed the following year. The Christmas message is now also available each year as a podcast and can be seen through Facebook and YouTube. King Charles III is expected to give his first Christmas message this year

Source The Parish Pump

What a day

What a day for Anne-Marie and Sophie Emmerson. Anne - Marie was baptised by Reverend Stephen at the 10.30 Eucharist at All Saints, then in the evening they were both confirmed by Bishop Sarah at the Deanery Confirmation Service at St Ives Leadgate. Anne -Marie and Sophie pictured sharing their celebration cake in the Chapter House have become regular members of the Church family and along with Stephens daughter Gracie are learning to ring bells at our regular Friday night practice.



Editor

The mysterious ways of mistletoe

Mistletoe has long been used as part of our Christmas decorations. It is not your usual kind of plant.

Instead, it is *hemiparasitic*, meaning that although its leaves enable it to feed itself through photosynthesis, its roots invade the host tree or shrub to extract water and other nutrients.



Mistletoe loves living in apple, lime, hawthorn, poplar or oak trees. You may spot it high up, as a large globe, on the bare trees in winter. There is one spectacular example in Windsor Great Park, clearly visible from the path on the opposite side of the Thames.

Mistletoe's berries are almost translucent, fleshy and sticky. They form in the forks of mistletoe's many branches. While they are toxic to humans, they are attractive to birds, who wipe the remaining seeds off their beaks onto the nearest branch, which of course helps the plant to spread.

For some reason, Romans thought mistletoe represented Peace, Love and Understanding. Perhaps that is how it got into our Christmas celebrations? The earliest documentary evidence for kissing under mistletoe dates from the 16th century, but we don't know who got kissed first.

Source The Parish Pump

Pauline's Reflection

The transcript of a radio conversation of a US naval ship with Cornish authorities off the Lizard Point in October, 1995 on a windy and foggy night. Radio conversation released by the Chief of Naval Operations 10-10-95.

Americans: Please divert your course 15 degrees to the North to avoid a Collision.

Cornish: Recommend you divert YOUR course 15 degrees to the South to avoid a collision.

Americans: This is the Captain of a US Navy ship. I say again, divert YOUR course.

Cornish: No. I say again, you divert YOUR course.

Americans: This is the aircraft carrier USS Lincoln, the second largest ship in the United States' Atlantic fleet. We are accompanied by three destroyers, three cruisers and numerous support vessels. I demand that YOU change your course 15 degrees north, that's one five degrees north, or countermeasures will be undertaken to ensure the safety of this ship.

Cornish: This is the Lizard Point Lighthouse lighthouse. Suit yourself.



It's an urban legend, sadly, but a nice little story that illustrates that none of us, no matter how big and impressive, knows everything, and that we are all sailing in a fog, and in need of a guiding light, and we all depend on one other.

When Paul first went to Ephesus he entered the richest and most corrupt city in the Roman Empire - and heaven knows, there was a lot of competition. The inhabitants were guilty of every sort of immorality, and didn't think twice about cheating and abusing each other - after all, that was how you got rich. And yet, despite the unpromising material he had to work with, Paul managed to convert a large number of people.

It wasn't plain sailing, though. One of the problems was that in Ephesus, Jews were regarded as second-class citizens and even after conversion this mindset continued - Gentile Christians regarded Jewish Christians as lesser than themselves. Paul's mission was to convert the Gentiles but he wasn't going to tolerate a divided church - and so the pastoral epistles were written.

Paul reminds us of a few home truths - that though God's salvation is a blessing freely given, it carries with it expectations and responsibilities to live and behave the way God wants us to, and to be worthy of our calling to follow Christ. Paul knows it isn't easy. He said of himself "I do the things I ought not to, and don't do the things I ought to do." He knew that we are all surrounded by temptation at every turn, and that it takes a conscious effort to live in Christ's light. It isn't always easy to accept Jesus' love for everyone - even the people that we disapprove of; even the people we really don't like . . . To put off our old self, and to put on the self of Christ takes conscious effort.

God freely forgives us, and asks only that we forgive and are equally tolerant of others. It is hard sometimes to get rid of the bitterness and anger we feel, to release grudges and fill ourselves with a readiness to forgive. True and deep forgiveness for a hurt that has been done to us takes time and prayer, and God knows that it is difficult - but if we start by acting as though we have already forgiven, and show only kindness, in time the feelings in our hearts change, and we realise that they are no longer a duty, but a joy - but we need God's help to do this. Without God to change those bitter feelings, our hurt will fester under a forced layer of affability until it erupts and damages everyone around us - including ourselves.

The fact is that everyone is part of God's great plan, and we are all of equal importance in the eyes of our Creator. In his letters, Paul emphasises that we are all part of the holy body of Christ; one body, one spirit, one hope. He urges us not to envy others the gifts they have been blessed with, because our own are just as important. I think we all feel like this sometimes. We see someone and think "If only I could offer that gift to God." And we also think ourselves better than others sometimes, and that isn't right, either. Each of us is equally important, equally loved and equally valued.

When we kneel before the rail to receive communion, it is a physical reminder to us that we are all equal in Christ. We bring ourselves, our gifts, to God and receive God into ourselves in return. Each of us has a different role in God's plan - but we are all the living embodiment of a Church which must not be divided; a church made of many parts, each with its own purpose, and none of which is better than another, because we all need each other, we all need God, and God needs all of us. And often it is the less obvious parts of the body of Christ - the ones which don't draw attention to themselves, but which just get on with things without fuss or drama, maybe seeming to do very little - which do the most. They are unrecognised in their dedication; the work they do is often unappreciated, but without them - small, unnoticed, quietly efficient - none of us, as individuals or as a church, could survive. Whether our gift is speaking in tongues, or welcoming people into God's house - it is needed.

None of us can succeed without the help of others, and most importantly without the help of God. We need to have our lives both underpinned and illuminated by the Divine. We need to be able to stand together in the guiding light of Christ, the light which shows the way, exposes the dangers that surround us, and offers protection from the terrors that lurk in the shadows.

Often we think that we can manage on our own. We think that we are big enough to do anything we want, and important enough to make the world bend to our will. We forget how vulnerable we are until one dark and foggy night we find ourselves on a collision course in some part of our lives. It is only then that we realise that we are all of us fragile vessels on a wide and hostile ocean, unable to see our way ahead. We can throw our weight around and try to bluster our way through the hazardous waters ahead, but we can't do anything alone. We need each other to help us steer the right course. We need each other to remind us that the light is there, even if we are unable to see it. And most of all we need to be aware that we are none of us more important than the lighthouse.

Pauline Meek



Extracts from the Parish Magazines of 1898 & 1899

January 1898

One event of public interest has come and gone----the visit of the Prince of Wales to our neighbourhood on Wednesday, November 24th. The Prince of Wales, accompanied by Lord Durham, Lord Lurgan, Lord Chesterfield, Earl of Mar, Lord Pembroke, Lord Henry Vane-Tempest, and the Hon. Francis Lambton were driven to Lord Durham's Langley estate, where the covers were shot over. At the Red Lion Bank, Browsworth, the party was met by an escort of mounted police, who preceded them to Sacriston, where all the miners turned out to cheer... There were 130 beaters and 50 policemen. .. and His Royal Highness expressed surprise at the abundance of game. On Friday he paid a brief visit to Durham, when he was accorded a most loyal and hearty welcome. It was right that he should see the ancient city, for if ever he should ascend the throne one of his many titles would naturally be Count Palatine of Durham.

December 1899

There is but little to chronicle this month, but there has been very much to attract the attention of every true Britisher, during the past few weeks, in our struggle with the South African Republic. Many of our great men were hoping that war might be averted, and, indeed, disapproved of the policy that was being pursued by our Government, but all these difficulties and doubts were dispelled when the ultimatum was issued by the Transvaal Government; since then our troops have been called to arms in large numbers, in the hope that a speedy settlement of the strife may be effected, and a lasting peace concluded; towards this end we have been using special prayers for the restoration of peace, and the safe voyage of our men across the seas. Now, many people have been enquiring the cause of this war, and the answer is not very far to seek; it has not been brought on by us, but it has been forced on us by the Transvaal. The Boers first raised the question of paramountcy and have taken advantage of every opportunity to undermine our authority. They are fighting for their independence, but it is because of that independence means inequality of the two white races, that it is threatened. The Boers have strained the letter of the conventions and violated their spirit; some years ago a certain line of policy was adopted, but the Boers were not enlightened enough to understand the motives that prompted such a policy; this is a war against oppressive government and for freedom.

On Saturday, November 4th, we had a visit from the Modern Marvel Company, of Edinbro', when a most interesting cinematographic display was given in the Assembly Rooms before a large audience. After service on Sunday night, a goodly number of people were present to witness several scenes from the famous Passion Play, which were highly appreciated, and we hope to enjoy another visit from Mr. West and his company in their beautiful motor car.

Christmas Day this year falls on a Monday. There will be Holy Communion at 8.30 and noon; Morning Service at 10-30

Yours faithfully
GEORGE JEPSON Vi car and Surrogate

Peter Smith

From the Wardens

As ever the wardens continue to support Lesley as she ministers to both parishes and in preparations for regular services, special services and events at All Saints and Burnhope as they arise.

The boilers at All Saints have now been serviced by TW Steam and Heating of Durham and all is well for now, but the older boiler serving the Chapter House and Vestries as we all know may be living on borrowed time. The hot water side of the boiler is not working well and we are fortunate to have and rely on the hot water boiler in the kitchen. The Engineer suggested that parts for the old boiler may be impossible to source. The company would give us a quotation for a new hot water boiler but that would require a faculty as a separate flue is required. Arrangements are in hand to service the boiler at St John's.

We have new signs for both Churches, to replace the shoddy signs that existed, both display the principal services and contact details.

Churchyard tidy ups for both Churches were carried out (All Saints Saturday 19th and St Johns Thursday 24th November) The Council on request provided bags for leaf collection which they delivered. They also agreed take the bags away from All Saints after they were filled, which made things easier and quicker for those filling the bags, as they didn't have so far to carry them.

The Autumn Fayre held on Saturday 26th and St John's Christmas Fayre on Saturday 3rd December 2pm -4pm were excellent occasions and our thanks go to everyone who came or helped in any way.

The Christmas Tree has been ordered from Lanchester Hardware, and will be erected in Church at an appropriate time.

We look forward to a busy Advent and we thank all those who help when it becomes necessary, making our job a bit easier.

Our very best wishes to everyone for a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful Christmas and our prayers for a Happy and Safe New year

For The Wardens

Rob Matthews

Post those cards on time! Final posting dates for the UK this Christmas are as follows:

Friday 16th December: Royal Mail Bulk Mail Economy

Monday 19th December: 2nd Class

Wednesday 21st December: 1st Class

Thursday 22nd December: Special Delivery Guaranteed & Royal Mail Tracked 24

Friday 23rd December: Special Delivery Guaranteed with Saturday Guarantee



LANCHESTER E.P (Cont.) PRIMARY SCHOOL



I have just returned from the Baptism and Confirmation Service at St Ives Parish Church in Leadgate where 5 of our children were baptised and 10 were confirmed in a wonderfully uplifting service. Huge thanks must go to Revd Lesley and Revd Stephen for leading the confirmation classes in school for the children. I felt so proud and quite emotional watching the children take such an important step in their Christian journey and look forward to being able to support them in their spiritual growth over the next few years in our school. The service was led by Bishop Sarah of Jarrow who was as inspirational as usual. A wonderful evening with some very special little children!

We are now turning our minds towards Christmas and it is wonderful that we are able to hold our traditional nativities again – something we have been unable to do for 3 whole, long years! We are having our Reception performances in school on Thursday 15th December and our KS1 nativity on Monday 19th December in the school hall at 10am and 2pm. We are finishing the year in our usual way, in church on Tuesday 20th December at 10am and 1.30pm for our Year 3 Christingle and KS2 Nativity, led by our Year 6 children. You are all more than welcome to come along to any of our performances.

It has been wonderful to welcome Margaret and Chelsea into school recently to listen to some readers. Seeing the children snuggle up to Chelsea is so special as you can also sense any frustration and tension just leaving their bodies too. This is a really special session that the children absolutely love! We cannot thank them enough for giving up their time to help our children.

Our school community has been its usual generous self, raising over £500 for the Poppy Appeal and we have also just supported Children in Need too. We hope to be able to support some of our most vulnerable families with our Reverse Advent Calendar in December too, with children bringing in food items each day of advent to enable us to make some hampers up. Times are particularly hard for families at the moment so it is important to do whatever we can to help where we can.

We are holding our Winter Wonderland again at the beginning of December and on Thursday 8th December are opening it up to the community whilst also holding our Christmas Fair and having a Christmas market of stalls too. This will be open between the end of school and 7pm so feel free to have a look along.

January and February bring with it some amazing international trips for 40 of our oldest children. We are taking 16 children to India and 24 children to Dubai – such amazing opportunities for them all! The chance for them to see, first-hand, the differing cultures, diversity and life-styles really are once-in-a-lifetime opportunities.

I would like to wish you all the most wonderful Christmas possible. I know that this year will be more special than ever for so many of us, being able to spend the festive season with all our loved ones. My daughter had Covid over Christmas last year, meaning we saw so little of my mum – we certainly intend making up for it this year!

May the spirit of Christmas bring you peace, the gladness of Christmas bring you hope, and the warmth of Christmas grant you love.

Mrs Jane Davis

Head Teacher, Lanchester Endowed Parochial (Controlled) Primary School



Wishing all our readers a Peaceful Christmas and a Happy Healthy and safe New Year

Editor

Dates for your Diary December 2022

- Sun 4th** 8.00 am Eucharist at All Saints
 9.15 am Eucharist at St John's
 9.45 am Eucharist St Thomas
 10.30 am Eucharist at All Saints
 2.00pm Willowburn Light up a life Service of Remembering, All Saints Roman Catholic Church
 3.00pm Messy Church All Saints
- Mon 5th** 2.00pm Julian Meeting Chapter House
- Tues 6th** 11.00 am Chapter House Meditation and Mindfulness
 7.30 pm Zoom Compline with M and A Armstrong
- Wed 7th** 9.45 am Eucharist All Saints
- Thur 8th** 9.00am Morning Prayer St Thomas
 7.30 pm Church Wives Christmas Party
- Sun 11th** 8.00 am Eucharist at All Saints
 9.45 am Eucharist St Thomas
 10.30 am Joint Eucharist All Saints
 6.00pm Carols and Crib followed by Mince pies and mulled wine, St Thomas
- Tues 13th** 11.00 am Chapter House Meditation and Mindfulness
 2.00 pm Mothers Union Advent Service All Saints
 6.00pm Café Church Burnhope Community Centre
 7.30 pm Zoom Compline with M and A Armstrong
- Wed 14th** 9.45am Eucharist All Saints
- Thur 15th** 9.00am Morning Prayer St Thomas
- Sun 18th** 8.00 am Eucharist at All Saints
 9.15 am Service of the Word St John's
 9.45 am Eucharist St Thomas
 10.30 am Eucharist at All Saints
 6.00pm Service of Lessons and Carols All Saints
- Tues 20th** 11.00 am Chapter House Meditation and Mindfulness
 10.00 am EP Christingle Yr 3
 1.30 EP KS2 Nativity
- Sat 24th Christmas Eve**
 10am Carols and Communion St Thomas
 2.00pm Carols at St John's Burnhope
 6.00 pm Carols on the Green
 11.pm Midnight Mass All Saints
- Sun 25th Christmas Day**
 10.00am Christmas Eucharist All Saints (Joint Service)
- Sun 1st Jan 23**
 10.00am Eucharist for the Patronal feast of St John the Evangelist, St Johns

Do you need a good night's sleep?



Pop a lavender bag under your pillow

Fresh Lavender bags for sale
 60p each or 2 for £1

Ring Margaret 521 214

I heard the Bells on Christmas Day

I heard the bells on Christmas day
 Their old familiar carols play,
 And wild and sweet the words repeat
 Of peace on earth, good will to men.

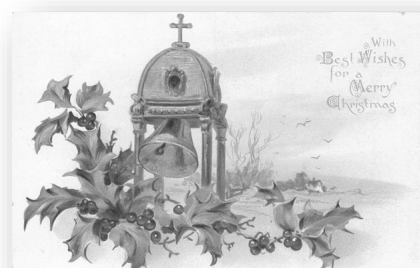
I thought how, as the day had come,
 The belfries of all Christendom
 Had rolled along th'unbroken song
 Of peace on earth, good will to men.

And in despair I bowed my head:
 'There is no peace on earth,' I said
 'For hate is strong, and mocks the song
 Of peace on earth, good will to men.'

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
 'God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
 The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
 With peace on earth, good will to men.'

Till, ringing, singing on its way,
 The world revolved from night to day
 A voice, a chime, a chant sublime,
 Of peace on earth, good will to men.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow



And from St Thomas



HARELAW AND ANNFIELD PLAIN

READER

Pauline Meek, 32 Harewood Close, Whickham
(0191) 6602457

SERVICES AT ST THOMAS', HARELAW AND ANNFIELD PLAIN

First and Third & any 5th Sunday services

9:45 a.m. Service of the Word

Second and Fourth Sundays

9:45 a.m. Parish Eucharist

HOLY BAPTISM, WEDDINGS and FUNERALS –
by arrangement with the Vicar

CHURCHWARDENS

Richard Huggins 39 South View Gardens
Annfield Plain 234147

Malcolm Meek, 32 Harewood Close, Whickham
(0191) 6602457

PCC VICE CHAIR

Malcolm Meek, 32 Harewood Close, Whickham
(0191) 6602457

PCC TREASURER and Open the Book Co-ordinator
Jane Makepeace jane.makepeace100@gmail.com

PCC HON SECRETARY

Donald Elsom, 53 Hamsterley Gardens,
Annfield Plain 234904

ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER

Anne Whiteley, 12 Villa Real Road, Consett 590914

GIFT AID

Jane Makepeace jane.makepeace100@gmail.com

ORGANIST

Bill Gray, Lanchester

MOTHERS' UNION BRANCH LEADER HARELAW AND ANNFIELD PLAIN

Jean Williams, 10 Kirkfield Gardens, Catchgate
281603

MU SECRETARY

Anne Whiteley, 12 Villa Real Road, Consett 590914

MU TREASURER

Jean Morecroft, 13 Victoria Terrace, Annfield Plain
233273

Advertising

**If anyone wishes to advertise in the
magazine please contact
The Editor for further details**

**Tel: 01207 771044 or
robmathews48@hotmail.com**

Editors Note

Please can I have any articles you wish to see on this page sent to me before deadline date which is on the inside cover page. I send regular reminders to Pauline and Anne who respond. This is your page please use it.

Rob

How long should you sleep when you are over-50?

The amount of sleep you get each night can have a huge impact on your health.

A recent study has found that middle-aged people need at least seven hours a night. This reduces their risk of developing various serious health conditions including cancer, diabetes, and arthritis.



This contrasts with the effect of having only five hours of sleep a night. People over 50 who slept for five hours were found to be 30 per cent more likely to have chronic diseases, including depression, liver disease, stroke, heart disease, diabetes, cancer, and Parkinson's. The researchers were based at University College London (UCL).
when you are over-50?

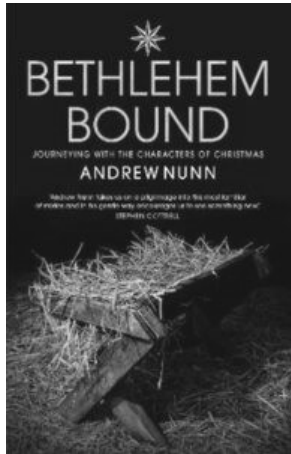
Source The Parish Pump

Protect our birds

This Christmas why not give the birds in your garden a Christmas present by joining the RSPB? More and more of our wild birds are disappearing, making the RSPB's work vital, to make sure that the birds we have grown up with and love remain a familiar sight for our children and future generations. More than 200 different kinds of wild bird live within our shores – why not help the RSPB to help them? Visit: www.rspb.org.uk



Book Reviews

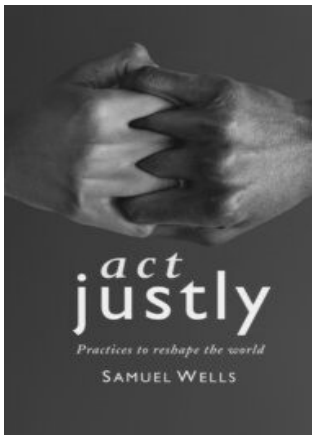


Bethlehem Bound
journeying with the
characters of Christmas

By Andrew Nunn, Canterbury
Press, £10.99

This is a daily spiritual travel companion for the season, beginning with the great Advent antiphons that herald the feast, and ending with the Presentation in the Temple.

Each day it travels with a different character from scripture and the Christian tradition – Jesse, Anna, Gabriel, the donkey, the innkeeper and his wife, the shepherds, the martyrs we commemorate at Christmas and many more. The journey had its challenges for the original characters, and it will for us, but at its end is a wondrous gift from God – God's own self in a baby laid in a manger. *Bethlehem Bound* invites us to embrace that gift afresh.



**Act Justly – practices to re-
shape the world**

By Samuel Wells, Canter-
bury Press, £14.99

Act Justly is the final book in the trilogy begun by *Walk Humbly* and *Love Mercy*, together forming an introduction to Christian faith and life. Taking their inspiration from a question posed in the

Old Testament, 'What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God', each book in the series offers a practical ethic for living that is rooted in timeless wisdom. Focusing on two of the most outstanding justice issues of our day – racial and climate injustice – as well as individual stories of injustice,

Act Justly offers practical ways of thinking about justice and cultivating habits of justice to foster the life of God, so that injustice can be challenged and the world can be changed.

Prayer Tip for the Month

Write down fifty good things in your life at the moment and thank God for them.



Smile Lines

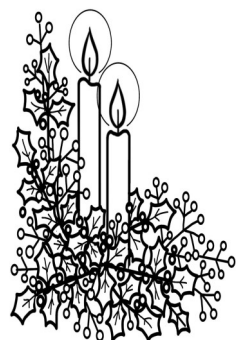


"Does anyone have a light, please?"

Christmas Day

Carols sound throughout the land
Heralding a special birth
Rejoicing as from Heaven's realm
Immanuel comes to bless the earth.
So in the town of Bethlehem
The Saviour Jesus gently lies,
Mary rocks the tiny child
As angels serenade the skies.
Shepherds told the awesome story
Divinity will now reside
As He who ruled in Heaven
above
Yet Lord of all comes as a
child.

By Megan Carter





First carpet £30, £20 per room thereafter on the same day
 Free deodorising with all cleans
 Rug and mattress cleaning
 Fire and flood restoration
 Mark Armstrong 07968926687
 eazycleanmark@aol.co.uk

PAUL LOWE COUNSELLING

Are you currently struggling with a mental health or life issue?

I can offer help using a range of therapeutic approaches

Including Walk and Talk therapy and mindfulness.

Please contact or visit:

Paul Lowe/Counselling Directory.

Tel: 07598 437 118

The darkest times can bring us to the brightest places.

There is always hope.

DAVISON'S FOR THE BEST IN FASHION

Front Street, Leadgate

Telephone: 502355



Unit 51
 Birtley Business Centre
 Birtley
 County Durham
 DH3 1QT

Re-upholstery & repairs to modern
 & antique furniture
 for domestic & commercial customers
 Bespoke headboards

Tel: 0191 660 6407

Mob: 07543 900 583

www.taylorsupholstery.com

SUNFLOWER
 CARE & COMPANIONSHIP

A new, local company which provides a trusted, thoughtful companionship and home-help service throughout Lanchester and neighboring locations to both the young and old.

*Respite provision for full-time carers
 Conversation and a cuppa
 Light housework/Gardening
 Essential non-medical care
 Preparing meals
 Accompanying you to appointments
 Collecting shopping/prescriptions*

Please contact Becky Haynes to find out more. Tel: 07713 567 993 or email

: sunflowercare67@gmail.com
www.sunflowercare.co.uk

ON SALE IN THE CHAPTER HOUSE

biscuits coffee tea
 dried fruit chocolate
 honey muesli
 and much more

Traidcraft

helps small scale producers in developing countries supports people to trade out of poverty works to bring about trade justice

COME AND BUY – PLAY YOUR PART



TRAIDCRAFT
 Fighting poverty through trade

Derwentside Funeral Service

Proprietor David Forster

Consett 01207 504256
Rowlands Gill 01207 504256
Annfield Plain 01207 234444
Stanley 01207 234444

24 hour professional service

Private chapels of rest - Floral Tributes

In house catering service- Prepayment plans

www.derwentsidefuneralservice.co.uk

OLYMPIC TYRE SERVICE

CAR, VAN, 4X4 & TRUCK TYRES

PUNCTURE REPAIRS

WHEEL BALANCING

01207 236200

MITCHELL STREET, ANNFIELD PLAIN

(BEHIND THE 'PLAINSMAN' PUB)



MSD Building Services Ltd

Gas Boiler Installations
 Service & Repair
 Landlord Safety Checks
 Log and Multi fuel Stoves
 24 hour Emergency Callout
 Plumbing and Drainage
 Kitchens and Bathrooms
 Easy access baths and showers
 Garage and Loft conversions
 Fully Insured, Time Served
 Family Run Local business

Office 01207 521604
Mobile 07939672948
mick.msd@sky.com

Country Homes & Gifts

Incorporating

Gallery Coffee Shop

22 Front Street

Lanchester

Tel: (01207) 520383

MK Print Solutions
 Commercial & Security Printing
 Computer Supplies - Stationery

*Personally Printed
 Funeral Order of Service*



www.mkprint.co.uk
 Lanchester, Durham

Tel/Fax: 01207 529784 & 07850 690220



- * **Complete funeral service to all areas**
- * **Private Chapels of Rest**
- * **Silver Fleet**
- * **Funeral pre payment plans by Golden Charter**
- * **24 hour service**
- * **Established 1992**

Tel Durham 01913863850



For more information

www.stuartwrightfunerals.co.uk

Head Office Gilesgate, 38 Sunderland Road, Gilesgate, Durham, DH1 2LG

Pelton, 3 Front Street, Pelton, Durham, DH2 DB

Pity Me, Front Street Pity Me, Durham, DH1 5DQ

Langley Park, 43 Front Street, Langley Park, Durham, DH7 9SA